

Arriba Juntos. As a Project Manager for the Model Cities program, he implemented an employment training program and directed other social services programs.

After a brief stint as Associate Director of the Mission Neighborhood Health Center, he joined the U.S. Department of the Interior as an Area Director. In this capacity, he founded and led an employment training program in the Western U.S. that became nationally known and emulated for its effectiveness.

In 1980, he began working for the University of California, San Francisco. First in the Office of the Public Programs, then in the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Task Force, and then in the Office of the Vice Chancellor, David spent twelve years with U.C.S.F. While there, he raised support for their health programs and represented U.C.S.F. in the health care community; he helped to design and implement U.C.S.F.'s plan to achieve full diversity on campus; and he secured corporate and foundation support for many projects, including a joint gerontological research project with Mount Zion Medical Center, a pediatric crack cocaine project, a campus capital improvement project, and the 1990 International Conference on AIDS.

After leaving U.C.S.F., he spent four years as the Executive Director of the Hearing Society for the Bay Area before becoming the Executive Director of Arriba Juntos. At Arriba Juntos he has presided over a time of great transition as the agency has adapted to respond to the nation's welfare reform effort. Where many have been content to reduce the welfare rolls, David has fought to ensure meaningful employment for those losing benefits. He has been concerned not with saving money but with saving lives. David's concern for those around him and his emphasis on helping people better their own lives have earned him the respect and appreciation of the community.

It has been my distinct pleasure to know and to work with David Bracker. He is a caring and able man whose many talents will be missed at Arriba Juntos. I know, however, that he will continue to serve our community in new and creative ways.

I join Arriba Juntos in thanking David for his time there as Executive Director, and wish him, his wife Kathy, and his daughter Megan all the best in their future pursuits.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3, because I believe the product is fiscally irresponsible and the process rushed to the point where we are voting on 10-year tax cuts before we even have a 1-year budget in place. Congress is now making budget and tax decisions that will directly affect our families and our nation for the next 10 years and beyond. It is crucial that we make informed, fiscally responsible decisions on the budget

and taxes, because the choices we make today could lock in our national priorities for the future.

I will support fiscally responsible tax cuts this year including reducing the estate tax and the marriage penalty as well as expanding child tax credits. I believe we must also fulfill the moral obligation we have to our children to reduce our \$5.7 trillion national debt and a responsibility to protect Social Security and Medicare for our seniors. The question is not whether Congress will pass a tax cut this year—we will. The question is how large is the tax cut and will it be fiscally responsible and fair to all families, including middle and low-income working families?

These are difficult questions that must be answered satisfactorily before tax cuts are approved. Perhaps if these questions were asked and answered back in the 1980s, our country could have avoided the huge budget deficits that contributed to the \$5.7 trillion national debt.

In 1981, President Reagan and Republicans and Democrats in Congress passed a huge tax cut into law. They predicted the then \$55 billion a year deficits would become a surplus in 1984, 3 years later. What actually happened is that instead of having a surplus in 1984, the federal deficit exploded to \$185 billion.

As a consequence of that tax cut, the national debt tripled in the 1980s—and now stands at \$5.7 trillion. Last year Americans paid \$223 billion in taxes, just to pay the interest on the national debt. On average, that would approximately be \$800 in taxes for every man, woman and child in America.

Marvin Leath, my predecessor, said that the 1981 tax vote was his "worst vote" in 12 years of Congress. In 1990, President George Bush chose to reverse his previous pledge to oppose new taxes. Why? By 1990, the federal deficit had skyrocketed to \$220 billion each year, with no end in sight.

President Bush, Republicans, and Democrats passed a tax increase in 1990 and it cost President Bush dearly, but not as much as the budget deficit would cost average Americans. By 1993, projections were that deficits would further explode to over \$300

Those lower interest rates made it cheaper to buy a house or car or build a business. That, plus the new high tech economy that increased productivity of American workers, resulted in the longest sustained economic growth period in American history.

And, after 29 straight years of deficits, in 1997, we had the first balanced budget since Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon in 1969. So, we spent the 1990s stopping the deficit binge of the 1980s, but where does that leave us now?

The Congressional Budget Office and other government economists predict we will have a \$5.6 trillion federal surplus over the next 10 years. (FY 02–FY 11). The promise of surplus has led President George W. Bush to propose a 10-year, \$2.4 trillion tax cut. But do we really have the money needed to provide this tax cut, pay down the debt and protect Social Security and Medicare? Before we take the step of spending a surplus we may not have, let me ask you two questions. One, is there anyone in this chamber that would bet his or her family's entire net worth on the belief that a

federal government economist's 10-year projections on the American economy will be 100 percent correct? Two, just how real is the \$5.6 trillion surplus projected by 2011?

The projected surplus is \$2.2 billion once you subtract the \$3.4 trillion held in the Social Security, Medicare, and other trust funds that Congress has pledged not to touch. The proposed tax plan costs \$2.4 trillion once you add the additional interest costs, tax break extensions, and the retroactive tax cuts. Over 10 years the country will be looking at a \$200 billion budget deficit and that's before other priorities are paid for. The tax cut plan assumes an overly optimistic 3 percent annual economic growth rate over the next 10 years. If the growth rate is off by just 4/10 of 1 percent, then the surplus will be reduced by \$1 trillion over 10 years. From 1974 to 1995 the economy grew an average of only 1.5 percent annually—half the rate assumed in the tax cut plan.

What if we proceed and cut taxes at this level and the economists are wrong? First, we'll see a return to budget deficits and interest rates will go up making it more expensive for families to make large purchases such as buying a home or starting a business. A larger national debt means more taxes to pay interest on the debt and less money to provide for priorities such as national defense and veterans, education, prescription drugs and protection Social Security and Medicare. Finally, the true cost of these tax cuts hits just as baby boomers are retiring and the Social Security and Medicare trust funds are running at a deficit.

We have more options than the House leadership would have us believe. The first option is the one we are looking at now: passing a \$2.4 trillion, 10-year tax cut and hoping the rosy economic forecasts are correct and that spending cuts can be made.

The second option is to pass a smaller tax cut now, make spending cuts and then see if the surplus is real. Once the surplus is guaranteed, then it will be time to pass more tax cuts.

I will be guided by several principles on the tax cut question. I will do what I believe is right, not just politically popular at the moment. I will listen to the citizens of Central Texas before making a final decision. I will try to look at the numbers honestly—without the hype and false promises.

I will support fiscally responsible tax cuts this year, but we also have a moral obligation to our children to reduce our \$5.7 trillion national debt and a responsibility to protect Social Security and Medicare for our seniors.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to my colleagues the following articles by Joan Ryan of the San Francisco Chronicle and Patty Fisher of the San Jose Mercury News. I found these articles to be